



The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Newsletter

May 2010



NEW EVANGELISATION



We live in a wonderful time in the life of the Catholic Church. It is the time of the New Evangelisation. Thank God if you have a desire to be part of this move of the Holy Spirit, this wave of grace. On Saturday 8th May the co-ordinators of the Catholic School of Evangelisation met in Sydney. The one thing this diverse group has in common was that each person has encountered the Risen Lord Jesus, he has taken away our sin and filled us with new life in the Holy Spirit. It is this encounter that fires the desire to evangelise, the desire that everyone might come to know the Father through Jesus.

The co-ordinators, both in person and through written reports, shared testimonies of what the Holy Spirit has been doing through the courses and other activities of the School. They gave witness to what can happen when a group of Christians respond to the call to come TOGETHER to PROCLAIM Jesus in the POWER of the Holy Spirit. They gave witness to the kekako principle of the School at work. The Kekako principle of the School is the interaction of the three inter-

related elements which underpin the spirituality of the School.

The first is the kerygma: the proclamation that in Jesus a person can find forgiveness of their sins and new life in the Holy Spirit. The Kerygma is like living water pouring from the side of Jesus refreshing, restoring, renewing the person in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the experience of the power of the waters of Baptism that becomes real as the kerygma is proclaimed.

The second element is the Karisma: the experience of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit as he leads and drives the Church forward with a passion to proclaim Jesus. As Pope Benedict says if we have experienced Jesus how can we not want to proclaim him. We experience the Holy Spirit in his charisms and fruits; we experience the Holy Spirit as he causes us to shout out to the Father in praise. It is the Holy Spirit who fills us with Pentecost fire so that we want to offer this living water to everyone. This is the experience of Confirmation, the experience of the consuming zeal of the Holy Spirit.

The third element is the Koinonia, the community of faith. The Holy Spirit binds us together as friends, as disciples of Jesus and we always evangelise as part of the community. Evangelisation flows out from the community to bring people back into the community. This is the experience of Holy Communion, the Body of Christ, the living expression of the love of Jesus. As we proclaim the kerygma in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is saying to people, receive my body and blood in the love of real flesh and blood people.

To visualise this you might think of fresh clean water being poured into a large bowl, and as it is poured in, the water overflows to water a beautiful garden. The more the water is given out the more it allows room for the bowl to be refilled. The water is the Holy Spirit, the bowl is the community and the pouring out is evangelisation.

This gathering of the co-ordinators of the School was a concrete expression of the New Evangelisation within the Catholic Church.

Pat Kelly

CO-ORDINATORS MEET IN SYDNEY

Pictured are the co-ordinators of the SOE who met at the Sydney Rozelle CCR Centre. Representatives from Paramatta, Broken Bay, Wollongong, Sale, Melbourne, and Brisbane Dioceses were present, with apologies from Adelaide and Sandhurst Dioceses. Bishop Joe Grech was present to celebrate Eucharist in the evening.

Adrian Commadeur



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This newsletter is published by the Catholic School of Evangelisation in Melbourne, Australia. It is published in April, August and December.

National Executive Committee:

Bishop Joe Grech — Spiritual Director
Patrick Kelly — Director

And all School Coordinators in Australia.

Committee of Management:

Patrick Kelly — Director
Adrian Commadeur — Deputy Director
Maria Luff — Secretary
Len Forster — Treasurer
Julianne Hoffard — Editor

Please direct all correspondence to:

**S.O.E.,
P.O. Box 168,
Wonthaggi 3995
Ph. 5672 2772**

email: pakell@bigpond.net.au

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School of Evangelisation
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Post, email or fax your articles of an evangelical nature, personal testimonies, jokes, news items, photos, advertisements, competitions, Bible trivia etc. to the Editor at the above address.

The Director and other members of the National Executive Committee of the School of Evangelisation do not necessarily endorse opinions expressed in articles within this publication.

Deadline for the next issue of

**The Witness
31st July 2010**

The School of Evangelisation acknowledges the efforts of all Coordinators involved in the distribution of this newsletter.

May God bless you!

School of Evangelisation MISSION STATEMENT

To contribute to the formation of evangelising parishes by offering a formation program which:

- ▶ FORM DISCIPLES
- ▶ TRAIN EVANGELISERS
- ▶ ESTABLISH PARISH EVANGELISATION TEAMS.

THROW IN THE NET, NOT THE TOWEL!

As an evangeliser I have come to the very obvious conclusion that evangelisation can be a difficult and fruitless task. Our society is so steeped in the message of self-sufficiency and self-fulfilment that the Christian message of dying to self so as to be born to new life seems very unattractive. Our society is so indoctrinated in the belief that science has all the answers and that only what can be seen and experienced by the senses is real, that the idea that there is a whole supernatural reality that is more real than the natural reality seems like a fantasy. Our society is so busy coping with the immediate demands of NOW that any thought of eternity just seems too far away to be bothered about. What is immediate and urgent, however unimportant it may be, drives out any thought of what is important. Satan doesn't care what we do just as long as we are so busy doing it that we are too busy for God's plans.

We might feel at times like throwing in the towel as evangelisers and just settling in to a comfortable, private religion of devotion, study and community service. However there are two areas in the human experience that seem to be so fundamental that they provide opportunities to proclaim the Gospel despite the distractions of our secular world and the smoke screens of Satan. I am speaking about family and friends.

Regarding family: Is there anything a parent wouldn't do for their child? Every parent wants the best for their child. Even parents who do not practise the faith want their children to learn about God and good moral living because they know this is for their benefit. When the parents present their child for the sacraments this is a wonderful opportunity for evangelisation. Yet how many parish catechetical programs struggle because they can't find enough people to teach the children? In Victoria the government allows the Churches to teach scripture in the State Schools yet often the opportunity is missed because so few Christians want to proclaim the Gospel.

Regarding friendship: I know from observing my own children that friendship is one of the highest priorities in their life. This is not just true for young people, for all of us friendship is a basic human need. Yet how often do we share everything with our friends except our faith in Jesus. There are many lonely people around us looking for a friend, as friend with whom they can enjoy all the good things of life especially the greatest joy of knowing Jesus.

The Holy Spirit is at work, there are opportunities to evangelise in

your life...
find them!
It's not time
to throw in
the towel, it's
time to
throw in the
net.



Pat Kelly.

FAITH & HEALING by Bishop Joe Grech



The real good news is that what happened to the first group of Christians at Pentecost is for us too. The Church says that when we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation we are receiving the same Holy Spirit which made such an incredible difference and gave so much power to the disciples on the day of Pentecost. (CC 1288) The Holy Spirit enabled, empowered and gave the necessary encouragement and purpose to those gathered in the Upper Room, to continue the work of Jesus. They preached, they taught, they encouraged, they helped and they also healed people through their prayers and performed miracles exactly as Jesus did during his lifetime. We are given the same power and grace. We are called to do the same things that Jesus did. In reality we are called to do even greater things than Jesus did. (Jn 14:12)

This is too good to be true you might say. Well let us let St Paul talk to us. *“The particular manifestation of the Spirit gravitated to each one is to be used for the general good. To one is given from the Spirit the gifts of utterance expressing wisdom; to another the gift of utterance expressing knowledge in accordance with the same Spirit; to another faith from the Spirit and to another gifts of healing, through this one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy; to another, the power of distinguishing spirits.... But at work in all these is one and the same Spirit, distributing them at will to each individual.”* 1 Cor 12:7-11

God has not only made clear to us that our call in life is to continue the work of Jesus, but He also gives us the necessary tools in order to fulfil this call. The Holy Spirit gives to you and to me amazing and wonderful gifts so that we can be effective witnesses that our God is alive and doing well today.

I would like to briefly reflect on two of the gifts that I have just mentioned. First the gift of faith. What does this mean? It does not mean that I know what the Catechism says about our faith although this is of great help. This gift of faith does not simply refer to the amount of knowledge that I have about God and the teachings of the church, although this is of great benefit too. Jesus has made so many promises to us:

*I will not leave you orphans.
Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God and trust in me.
I am the Way the Truth and the Life.
I am the Resurrection and the Life.*

So many promises. The gift of faith means that I stand on these promises during those times of uncertainty, doubt and difficulty. During those moments when I feel the world crumbling around me, when I feel so burdened and so alone, I will turn to my God knowing that He is at that very moment sustaining, loving and empowering me. I do this because I firmly believe that if Jesus has promised these things, He will be faithful to what he promises. What a wonderful gift. No wonder that in his letter to the Christian people at Philippi, Paul could boldly say, “I can do everything in Jesus who gives me strength.” (Phil 4:13) St Paul had no identity crisis. He knew who he was and what he was capable of doing because Jesus was alive in Him. We have the same presence of Jesus alive in our hearts right at this very moment and therefore we are able to face and overcome any difficulty or problem with our God.

One other gift that we are given by the Holy Spirit at Confirmation and nourished by our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, is the gift of healing. This is the healing of the whole person, the healing of the body, the mind, the heart and

the spirit of a person. Someone might say to me, “Are you telling me that because I believe in Jesus Christ, I am able to pray for others for their healing with amazing results?” The answer is “Yes”. I have seen so many people becoming better because somebody prayed with them. We normally think that healing refers only to those people who are physically sick and they become better after they were prayed for by somebody. This happens too.

However, I would like to share with you a story about another kind of healing; the healing of the heart. I met this person many years ago during a trip overseas. We were part of a group. After the trip I did not see this person for about twenty five years. Some three years ago, I got a phone call from this person. She told me that she had been diagnosed with cancer of the bowel some months previously and she asked me to do the funeral when she dies. She lived in Sydney and I was very surprised that she did not ask someone from that State to do the funeral. She realized that I was not only surprised by her call but also perplexed and she said to me. “I have never forgotten what you told me so many years ago.” Honestly speaking, I still have no idea what I said to this person, but it meant something so much to her that influenced her throughout her life. This is healing.

Let us take every opportunity that presents itself to us to sow the good seed, to offer a word of encouragement, to support one another and to say a little prayer when someone shares something with us that is worrying or troubling them. Remember that when we pray with another person, it is not only ourselves who is praying but it is also Jesus Christ who is present and alive in us through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Pentecost is our feast day reminding us that our God is constantly present within us and with us. God bless.

Miracle at the 11th Hour ... by Cathy McLure

When I married my husband, Peter in 1971, it didn't bother me too much that he didn't have any faith, probably because my own practice of my faith was limited to one hour a week.

However three years later when I encountered Jesus in a personal way I desperately wanted him to share in this exciting new experience. But no matter how I tried or what I said or how many things I invited him to, he maintained his stance that there was no God. I was left with the only recourse, to pray for him and leave him to God who I knew loved him more than I did. This I did for thirty-five years, sometimes with great earnestness, sometimes with serious fasting, sometimes with tears and anguish. There were a few major happenings in his life where I felt God was really trying to get his attention. Despite all this he still maintained his lack of belief.

In May 2008 he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. That's when I really started to panic! I had long felt it was my mission to bring him to faith and now time was not on

my side. Through the Schools of Evangelisation I had talked about evangelizing to so many others but I couldn't evangelize my own husband. In fact I had got to the stage where I felt I could say very little to him on the subject and so had to rely on someone else, but who? I thank God for three doctors over the next twelve months who were brave enough to speak about God to him, as well as a former mate. These occasions gave me the opportunity to say something too. But for the most part once again, all I could do was pray and I asked everyone I could to pray for his conversion.

Then the morning before he died on May 6th 2009, in a dazed state he called for me and after some personal exchanges, I told him God loved him and would forgive him of everything. He was then trying to ask for something and God put the word 'Baptism' in my mind. I asked him if he wanted to be baptized and he said, "Yes. I've always wanted that. I don't know why I didn't do it earlier." I couldn't believe my ears. I rang

the Parish Priest who was there in an hour. Peter was not only Baptized, but had Communion, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick. WOW! He then slept peacefully, his breathing improved and many family and friends had the chance to visit before he quietly passed away the following afternoon.

He was able to be buried with a Requiem Mass in St. Michael's church attended by about five hundred people who all got to hear about his amazing Baptism. Many of those present were seriously challenged at the time and since. Peter's conversion was having an evangelizing influence on so many people and his story is still touching lives to this day.

It may have taken thirty-five years but God loves each person so much and He doesn't give up on anyone and we can truly trust in His faithfulness.

"Glory be to Him whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we could ask or imagine." Eph. 3 : 20.

What I Learned from the 'GOOD NEWS' Course ... By Thelma Davies

On the evening of the 23rd and all day on the 24th of April 2010 the "Good News" course was conducted by the School of Evangelisation in Traralgon. There were around twenty participants and the atmosphere was very friendly. On the night we started it was so cold and chilly but we did not feel it much for we were all inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The next day there was a feeling of sadness due to the loss of one of our brothers Peter Hess but we all understand that God has a plan for each and everyone of us. [Peter Hess who died after a battle with cancer was a former member of the Sale Team, a gifted musician and enthusiastic worker for the School and Prayer Group. Sympathy is extended to his wife, Anne,

and family. Ed.]

Of all the courses I have attended since 2000 the 'Good News' enabled me to deepen my understanding of the essential message of the church and how to bring people to believe in Jesus through the simple illustration of the Celtic Cross. The knowledge that I learned and always stays in my mind now is the fact that even though we are sinners we still have the hope of salvation if we believe in Jesus. This sounds very powerful to me now.

I often say "God Loves You" to many of my friends who come to me when they are in distress but I couldn't persuade them to believe that Jesus loves them because of the lack of my knowledge on how to approach and deal with the problem they had. Thanks to the Holy

Spirit Jacinta and Pat gave us the different scriptural passages to support every key element of the Kerygma. Now I am building up confidence in sharing the Good News with others. Evangelisation is the work of the Holy Spirit but it is not easy for us unless we are prepared for it. Three things that I learned about sharing the Good News are: It should be done with joy, it must be brief and Christ centred, and it's what Jesus had done for us not what we have done for Him.



Now I fully understand that the course trains people to be equipped in bringing others to Jesus through sharing our own personal experience with Him.

TESTIMONY OF JOHN K. ... with Adrian Commadeur

John completed the *Fomation of Disciples* course at Bennettswood over the ANZAC weekend from 23rd -26th April 2010. During the course he gave a brief testimony of his journey with the Lord.

John was born in Syria into a Moslem family. He migrated to Australia about ten years ago. When the film *The Passion of the Christ* came out, he went to see it. It troubled him as a Moslem that the man who claimed to be God should suffer so greatly. This made him enquire into the Christian faith. He eventually sought instruction from the parish of St John the Baptist in Fern Tree Gully and was baptised, confirmed and initiated into the Catholic faith in 2008. He was burning with zeal for bringing the truth of the gospel to members of his family, knowing the teachings of the Koran and the Moslem religion very well.

During the weekend held in Berwick with the Community of the Risen Lord in February 2010, John picked up a brochure on the School of Evangelisation. On it he found a phone number. He rang Adrian Commadeur, saying "How can I learn to evangelise better?" As it turned out, Adrian was giving four teachings on the Acts of the Apostles at the prayer meeting of St



Above: The happy disciples from the Bennettswood course

John the Baptist in Fern Tree Gully, and John was invited to attend. This meeting led John and some friends to attend the prayer meeting on a regular basis. He received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and is now even more zealous to bring the gospel message of salvation in Jesus to members of his family, including those back in Syria.

(See photo below).

John continues to burn with zeal for the gospel and during the course reported how he has been able to bring some of his relatives to the Lord, at times in miraculous circumstances. The Lord is truly faithful and desires to save all, and use us all in our own circumstances.

Accepting an invitation to attend the *Fomation of Disciples* course in April, John participated with great joy and enthusiasm. During one of the summaries he was one of the "TV reporters" who gave a resume of the previous day's teachings.



TV Report of the day's teaching - Left to right: Lovelyn, John, and Gina.

Faith on Fire Seminar - Adelaide Carmen Sylvester

The Blessing that Fr Peter Dunn's teachings are to the SOE in Adelaide cannot be put down in words so I won't even try. The **Faith On Fire Seminar** in preparation for Pentecost was a day where God poured out his blessings on forty-four people who were certainly not disappointed to have chosen to join us on the 15th May 2010.

Enjoying physical sustenance after a spiritual banquet.



Besides the preaching, the singing, confessions and Mass we were also blessed to have Fr Alfred Farrugia joining us for the day. He graciously joined Fr Peter in hearing confessions, celebrating Mass and praying over every participant for an new awareness of the Holy Spirit who is already in our hearts through the gift of Baptism. No doubt this will be a day that will be remembered for the amazing and challenging words spoken to us by a priest that is evidently motivated by the Power of Pentecost.

We Praise God for His Goodness.

The Power of Forgiveness & Praise

..... Mike Dooley

Our next door neighbour – let's call her Rosemary – with whom we enjoyed a casual Hello and Good Morning relationship, decided to acquire a Belgian Shepherd failed police dog. The name given was – let's say – Horace.

Horace was certainly a born guard dog. When Rosemary was out, Horace would bark incessantly all day long, particularly if we walked out into the yard. The teeth would be bared and it was a scary sight. I could not even stand inside my open side door without Horace turning the bark up a few octaves. When having visitors we were unable to use our side patio table to entertain as the loud nonstop barking precluded us from hearing the conversation. Neighbours up to five houses away would ask how ever did we put up with the noise. The answer was, "With much difficulty". The situation was rather stressful.

In addition, to deviate from Horace, Rosemary accused me of entering her property and poisoning one of her shrubs. She blamed me for the clover problem in her front lawn. Had I rid my lawn of clover, she would not have her own clover problem. The fact is that there was clover in the lawn before we even built our home. I was going out too much at night and waking her when I returned. This one had some validity because I could have more quietly closed the garage door.

When being taken for a walk Horace got away and bit a passer by, tearing a hole in their jeans. The person traced where Horace lived and advised they would take action with the City Council. The situation was resolved by the purchase of a new pair of jeans. Horace got out one evening and bailed me up against the garage of a neighbour two houses away. The bared teeth were a worry as Horace closed in. I hit him across the head with two full shopping bags. Fortunately I was rescued by Rosemary's son who was most embar-

rassed. Another man had quite a scare when bailed up.

Another evening we were enjoying dinner with family members on our patio when Rosemary's cat flew up the steps and under the table. Horace followed with feet (ours) moving everywhere as the dog followed. He caught the cat in the back yard and fatally mauled it.

We were accused of putting two unsigned notes in Rosemary's letterbox threatening to formally complain about Horace, to the City Council. We said we would not do this but would tell her beforehand straight to her face. We got the blame for an official complaint which the back neighbour had sent.

Rosemary angrily refused point blank to believe Horace was causing a problem. She claimed that she was being victimized by the neighbours. One day while praying I asked God what we should do about the problem. I sensed God responding, "What would Jesus do?" My response, "Jesus would FORGIVE".- "Well do it," said God.

I began by repenting to God for the anger accumulated over the period Horace lived next door. Then I would PRAISE God several times a day for permitting the situation to occur. (Romans 8 v 28) I would then pray a blessing upon Rosemary, interceding that she would receive the desires of her heart. As for Horace, I prayed that he would also be blessed. This continued several times a day for a few months. Nothing seemed to change.

Later I donated a kidney to my wife. Out of courtesy I told Rosemary that our daughter would live with us for a few weeks as we recovered. Rosemary responded by offering to water our hanging baskets for the nine days we would both be in hospital, and as long as we needed it because of having to go the hospital every day for weeks. Rosemary also collected the mail while we were in hospital.

Since then I have collected her mail and watered her plants while she takes holidays. She even took me shopping as I was unable to drive for seven weeks. Now the relationship is good.

As for Horace, he has calmed down a lot. He still has his days, but overall is much quieter than before. Thus forgiveness is a great way of life.

Pope Praying for more "MISSIONARY ENTHUSIASM"

In May Benedict XVI will be praying for an increase among the faithful of missionary enthusiasm. His apostolic intention will be "That ordained ministers, religious women and men, and lay people involved in apostolic work may understand how to infuse missionary enthusiasm into the communities entrusted to their care."

Congratulations!



We all extend to **Eddie & Lucy Grasso** our very best wishes on their **50th wedding anniversary**.

They met on the ship on the way to Australia from Malta and the rest is history. I am sure they will have a great celebration with their children, grandchildren and friends.

Lucy is the co-ordinator of the Sydney School of Evangelisation and Eddie and Lucy have been very active in the School, the Charismatic Renewal and the Maltese community for many years.

May God bless them abundantly on this happy occasion.

JESUS IN THE 4 GOSPELS CROATIAN COMMUNITY - ST JOHN'S PARK

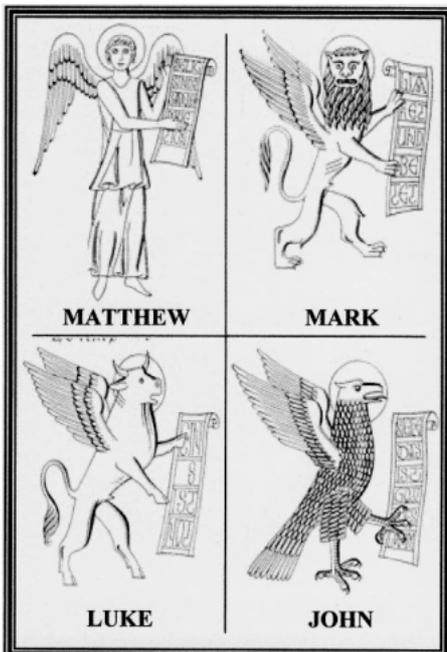
... By Lucy Grasso

“Jesus said to the paralytic, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!” Mark 2:10-12



The Croatian Community at St John's Park participated in the Course 'Jesus in the 4 Gospels' as a six week Lenten Program, 17th February - 24th March. The presenters were Lucy & Eddie Grasso, Fr Bob Bossini, SDB, Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys. The course was attended by forty participants eager in anticipation to meet Jesus in a new way through the Gospels.

The aim of 'Jesus in the 4 Gospels' Course is that the Four Evangelists, Mark, Matthew, Luke and John guide us to Jesus and show us different aspects of Him. The presentations have three parts of focus:



The Evangelist himself, his writings and his vision of Jesus.

Just as the paralytic in Mark's Gospel 2:1-12 needed his four friends to take him to Jesus to be healed, during the course, the Four Evangelists become our four friends who bring us to Jesus to experience forgiveness of sins and be healed. This course helps us to become open to meet Jesus more intimately, to love him, serve him and tell others about him. Jesus asked the paralytic to take up his mat and go home. At the end of the course we discover what it means 'to carry the mat.' We are challenged to go in search of another 'paralytic' to bring to Jesus on our mat and carry him/her with the help of another three friends from the community.

During the course, some of the highlights were dramatized by the participants in Croatian, much to the surprise of everyone. Thanks to Marija Sulentic and Emil Perosh a short interpretation in Croatian was presented at the end of the sessions. Comments from participants were that through this Course the Gospels came alive to them.

A special thanks to Fr Bob Bossini for his inspiring presentations and the special moments of bringing us in close touch with Je-

sus in the Eucharist. Participants had the opportunity to show deep reverence and appreciation to Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament. Each participant was asked to draw near to Jesus in the Monstrance to confess with Thomas Jesus divinity: "My Lord and My God." It was a very moving experience that touched each one present to come close to our Blessed Saviour and share a most intimate few moments touching the Monstrance.

It is always our great pleasure to present the School of Evangelisation Courses at St John's Park Croatian Community. The hospitality and love that is shown to the team and each other brings great joy. To be amongst such a faith-filled and spirit-filled community hungry to receive more is a great blessing. To join in their Praise and Worship before the sessions is very uplifting.

We wish to thank Fr Marijan Glamocak, Pastor of the Croatian Community at St John's Park, Sr Tarzicija, leader of the Prayer Group, and the St Nicola Tavelic Evangelisation Team for inviting us to present this course. Thanks Marija Sulentic and Emil Perosh for your untiring efforts in evangelisation and the support shown to us. May God bless your community abundantly!

Brisbane Runs Jesus in the Four Gospels Course

By Adrian Commadeur

Organised by the Brisbane School Team comprising Gary Cox, Lina Mazzocchini, Ferdi Sedhoff and Giordano Vico, assisted by some enthusiastic participants, the course was held at the CCR Ephesus Centre. Sadly people in the prayer groups did not seem to know about this event held in their own centre. About ten people completed the course, which breathed new life into the School in Brisbane. The presenters were Adrian Commadeur and Ferdi Sedhoff. Adrian presented Mark, Luke and John, and Ferdi presented Matthew, the introduction and conclusion talks. Power point presentations took the place of the usual posters used in School courses.

Everyone really enjoyed the three days from Friday 12th to Sun-



day 14th March.

The team took a risk in making it three full days, but it worked very well. As this was a live-in course, Friday and Saturday evening were spent in prayer and intercession, as well as fellowship. There was a real sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit during the weekend, and the lessons were well learnt.

Jesus in the Four Gospels is a real treasure among the courses of the School as it is so easily presented and so valuable for understanding the Gospels, their authors and their reasons for writing them. We pray that the new life in Brisbane will continue to sprout forth into a vine bearing much fruit.

YOUNG MUMS in PYMBLE

By Jill Seymour



Participants Personal Prayer Course Pymble

The Pymble Team of C.S.O.E. was invited to present the Personal Prayer Course at St. Patrick's, East Gosford. This was conducted towards the end of February 2010.

During Lent this year we presented the Personal Prayer Course to the mothers of our parish schools at the home of Teresa Lynch over three days and the New Life Course to the parish over 5 evenings.

Courses were well attended and we were delighted that the numbers were maintained throughout.

It is most encouraging to watch the interest and growth of the participants (and of the team!) and the bond which develops among us all during these courses.

HOPE EVANGELISATION

By Pat Kelly

On our recent visit to Italy and Ireland my wife, Anne, and I had the opportunity to visit a number of Houses of Prayer (HOPE) conducted by the Koinonia John the Baptist. These Houses of Prayer are a simple home meeting where people come together to read the scriptures, to listen to testimony and to praise God. The idea is that the person hosting the meeting invites those who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbours, workmates) to a non-church friendly environment (their home); the people come into an atmosphere of welcome and friendship; the host witnesses to what Jesus is doing in their life and invites the people to be open to what Jesus might want to do in their life.

The value of home meetings and small groups is well known in the Church and has been a successful means of evangelisation by different groups for a number of years. Houses of Prayer are the principle means of evangelisation for the Koinonia John the Baptist community and have grown to over a thousand Houses of Prayer since they were started in 1992.

Anne and I have started our own House of Prayer and each Tuesday we meet for one hour with a small group of friends and we are waiting expectantly to see what the Lord has in mind for us.



Reflection on the Formation of Disciples

Lenten Retreat at Noarlunga, SA

By Carmel Daly

Hi, my name is Carmel Daly. I am a member of Noarlunga Downs Catholic Parish and am based at St Lukes, primarily at the Youth Mass and the Cafe de Charles young adults group. Recently, I completed the "Formation of Disciples Lenten Retreat" and I'd like to share some of my thoughts and experiences with you.

I was in two minds about whether to do the retreat. It was a particularly busy and stressful time in my life and I was unsure about giving up an entire weekend for it. However, I had made a promise to make Lent a time of spiritual focus and growth, and this appeared to fit well with that commitment.

I only knew of four friends who were going on the retreat, though I had met Angie and Carmen through Celebrate Emmanuel and Parish events. The first thing that struck me on Saturday morning (except for the absolute need of a caffeine injection) was the spread of ages of those attending. This was such a blessing. It's a fantastic thing to be able to draw knowledge and wisdom from those older than ourselves, and to feel the enthusiasm and energy of the young.

The initial weekend retreat was extremely draining, but well worth it. The highlights for me were the visit to the Synagogue and the house of Jesus' friends. I also found a lot of value in our prayer session on Sunday afternoon. I was very hesitant at first, because I had switched communities for that session. But it was very much like God to put me in the right place, at the right time, with the exactly right mix of people, and it ended up being an amazing time of feeling the Holy Spirit very near and very active. It wasn't until a couple of weeks later that I realised, looking back on my retreat experiences, that God had removed my fear of praying with and for others, aloud.

This was a very special development for me. It's so encouraging to realise that God is always working in our lives. He doesn't forget our prayers. He doesn't ignore them. He just works in His time. And His timing is perfect.

The Thursday night meetings provided more opportunity to get to know each other on a deeper level and share our thoughts and insights more openly. Some of the practical examples were hard to get my head around (I still think God would be ok with me holding on to a couple more suitcases), but I found that looking at the program as a whole, they all had their place and significance. And because God works in His time (see, I'm learning already!), I trust that there will be much more fruit to come as I look back and these experiences and lessons are brought to mind over the coming weeks. Indeed, it has already sparked a number of conversations between those of us who attended, and in our wider communities as we share our knowledge and thoughts. We all agree that it is of utmost importance to be disciples and to be disciple makers. Now, we just need to support each other on that journey. And we know we have the prayer support of our retreat group as we travel this road.

I have purposely not been too specific in my 'review' of the retreat because I encourage those of you who have not experienced the retreat to take the opportunity when it arises. It needs to be lived to be truly valued. I look forward to attending other retreats and the Faith on Fire seminars in the future.

I would like to thank all those involved in planning and presenting the lessons. I'd also like to thank my fellow attendees - for their friendliness, support and openness.

It really was an absolute joy to attend each Thursday night and come away with new food for thought and relationships forged a little stronger each time. I pray you all continue to carry our experience with you, as you go out in to the world to share Christ.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"God whispers to us in our pleasures,
speaks in our conscience,
but shouts in our pains;
it is His megaphone
to rouse a deaf world."

.....

"You don't have a soul.
You are a soul.
You have a body"
~C S Lewis~

.....

"Beauty is in the death
of the beholder"
~Todd Agnew~

.....

"The more you know
you're loved;
the more you dance with
love"
~Fr Charles Gauci~



Parish on Fire Conference – Bulleen, 8th-10th October 2010

The third annual Parish on Fire Conference will be held at St Clement of Rome Parish Centre, of which Fr Wahid Riad is the Parish Priest.

There is a focus on the three elements of the Schools of Evangelisation, i.e. Kerygma, Charisma and Koinonia. Outstanding speakers have been enlisted for the conference.

Bishop Julian Porteous will speak on Friday's theme of Kerygma, focusing on the practical aspects of evangelisation. Bishop Julian, as head of the Evangelisation Office of the Sydney Archdiocese and one who actually implements evangelisation strategies, is ideally qualified to speak on this topic.

The Saturday theme of Charisma, will focus on the use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in evangelisation. **Fr Michael Shadbolt** of the Holy Family Parish, Doveton, will share on this topic as well as celebrate a Healing

Mass late in the morning. Fr Shadbolt humbly says that he prays and leaves the results to the Lord, but many testify that his ministry with words of knowledge is very powerful.

The Sunday theme of Koinonia, with emphasis on "Building Evangelising Communities", will be taken up by **Pat and Anne Kelly** who have just returned from Rome and Ireland with experience of the Koinonia John the Baptist. Pat and Anne are fired up with promoting community life from which and into which successful evangelisation can take place, especially of people not practicing their faith.

In addition, there will be evangelising activities and events.

For information please contact Adrian Commadeur: 03 93372051, or acommade@bigpond.net.au

KOINONIA JOHN THE BAPTIST . . . By Pat Kelly

Koinonia John The Baptist is a Community of friends, called together by the Holy Spirit to proclaim Jesus our Risen Lord. It is a private association of believers recognised by the Church with its headquarters in Pilsen in the Czech Republic.

The KJB was founded in Italy in 1979 by Fr Riccardo Arganaraz with three friends in the tiny village of Camparno in the mountains of Vincentino in the North of Italy. The Community gradually grew over the last thirty years so that now there are nearly 4500 members in fourteen countries of Europe, Mexico, USA and Zimbabwe. The membership includes 170 consecrated brothers and sisters, mostly young people in the 20's and 30's.

The KJB conducts the School of Evangelisation in Europe with a Summer School in Rome each year. The School has been conducting extensive outreach throughout India in recent years.

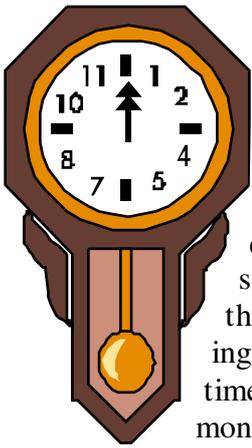
As a result of our two month visit to the Community Anne and myself feel led by the Holy Spirit to establish the Community in Australia and we are taking the first small step by starting a House of Prayer in our own home. Can't get much smaller than that but who knows where the Lord will lead.



SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2010

| DATE | COURSE | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| May 28 th —29 th | Jesus in 4 Gospels | Cranbourne, Vic. | Adrian 03 9337 2051 |
| June 25 th —26 th | Personal Prayer | St. Marys, N.S.W. | Lucy 02 9670 4440 |
| July 3 rd | Philip | Shepparton, Vic. | Gerri 02 6056 2442 |
| July 30 th —31 st | Apollos | Rooty Hill, N.S.W. | Lucy 02 9670 4440 |
| July 30 th —31 st | Good News | Bulleen, Vic. | Adrian 03 9337 2051 |
| August 6 th —7 th | John the Baptist | St. Marys, N.S.W. | Lucy 02 9670 4440 |
| September 24 th —25 th | Good News | St. Marys, N.S.W. | Lucy 02 9670 4440 |
| September 25 th | John the Baptist | Gosford, N.S.W. | Jill 02 9449 8098 |

TIME & MONEY



The scriptures point out to us very clearly (Mal 3:10) the advantages of giving generously to the Lord. Thank you to our Gideon's Army supporters who take the Lord's word seriously. Have you every thought how this principle of tithing could equally be applied to time? We know that if we tithe our money the Lord multiplies it and we have more that we need "pushed down and overflowing". In the world today so many people complain how starved they are for time, stressed with the demands made on them by modern life. This is something I experience myself as my "to do" list never seems to get any shorter.

During my recent visit to the Koinonia John the Baptist community in Italy and in my observations of different renewal groups it is very clear that the more a community makes a serious commitment to pray the more the Lord is able to bless it. I am sure the same thing applies to families and parishes.

If you are short of time, why don't you take up the challenge of tithing your time to the Lord. This is the challenge I intend to take up, I find an hour a day is not enough. After all only God can multiply time, for example with Jesus and the apostles on the Lake and with Philip, they completed long journeys in an instant! Why not put God to the test and allow him to open the floodgates of heaven to pour out minutes rather than dollars?

One way you can make a commitment to prayer is to join our intercessory prayer team the "E-prayers." Each month you will be sent a list of prayer intentions and you can incorporate them into your prayer time.

Just email:
pakell@bigpond.com.au



SOLDIERS FOR GOD – GIDEON'S ARMY

"Yahweh then said to Gideon, With the three hundred who lapped the water, I shall rescue you." Judges 7:7

Would you consider becoming a new member of the Gideon's Army appeal? \$100 annual subscription. New soldiers urgently needed!

Thank you to all existing members - May God bless you abundantly!



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Phone 03 5672 2772

THE WITNESS

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**Don't let your worries get the best of you;
Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.**

.....

*Trust in the Lord always, and lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Proverb 3: 5-6

Parish on Fire Conference

**St Clement of Rome Parish Centre Bulleen
8th-10th October 2010**

Main speakers: **Bishop Julian Porteous** will speak on **Kerygma**.
Fr Michael Shadbolt will speak on **Healing**.
Pat and Anne Kelly will speak on **Community**.

Keep these dates free to be uplifted, inspired and graced by the Holy Spirit!

For information please contact Adrian Commadeur:
03 93372051, or acommade@bigpond.net.au